Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

NSCE-00 USIE-00 AID-20 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 SY-10 PC-15 OPR-02 RSR-01 /167 W ------ 001924

O 201615Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5226 INFO DOD/DIA USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 3675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI, ELAB

SUBJ: RUIZ TV APPEARANCE STIRS SPECULATION

REF: SANTIAGO 3674

SUMMARY: TV APPEARANCE OF GEN RUIZ LEAVES IMPRESSION HE WAS "TRICKED" INTO RESIGNING AS FACH CINC. UNCONFIRMED MON MORNING RADIO REPORTS STATE THAT AF HAS TAKEN TO BARRACKS IN SUPPORT OF RUIZ. STRIKING TRANSPORT OWNERS MEET MONDAYMORNING WITH GEN. BRADY. MERCHANTS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES (NOT INCLUDING SANTIAGO) ARE STAGING STRIKE AND CALLING FOR NATIONAL PARTICIPATION. OPPOSITION CONTROLLED CUT UNIONS WILL STAGE STRIKE TUESDAY. END SUMMARY.

2. GEN CESAR RUIZ WAS PRINCIPAL GUEST ON SUNDAY EVENING TALKSHOW, "A ESTA HORA SE IMPROVISA" AND USED OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HIS SIDE OF RESIGNATION STORY. AS IN LAST APPEARANCE ON SHOW (SANTIAGO 3150) RUIZ LET OPPOSITION PANELISTS DO MOST OF THE TALKING AND MAKE DAMNING ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON THE BASIS OF HIS REMARKS. RUIZ STATED THAT HE TOLD PRES ALLENDE ON FRIDAY MORNING (AUG 17) THAT HIS INABILITY TO SOLVE THE TRANSPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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STRIKE NECESSITATED HIS RESIGNATION AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

AND TRANSPORT. RUIZ STATED THAT IT WAS NEVER HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN FROM THE AIR FORCE AS WELL. THE TWO MEN MET TWICE MORE DURING THE DAY AND IN THEIR LAST MEETING ON FRIDAY EVENING RUIZ WAS TOLD BY ALLENDE THAT HE MUST ALSO RESIGN AS FACH CINC. RUIZ ASSERTED THAT ONE OF ALLENDE'S ARGUMENTS IN ASKING FOR THE LATTER RESIGNATION WAS HIS ASSERTION THAT HE WANTED ALL OF THE CINCS TO BE MINISTERS AND THAT THEREFORE RUIZ' RESIGNATION FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS JOB OBLIGATED HIM TO RETIRE FROM THE AIR FORCE. RUIZ THEN DRAFTED AN ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH FOR HIS MINISTRY RESIGNATION LETTER STATING THAT THAT RESIGNATION AS MINISTER MADE HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE AIR FORCE "IMPLICIT". RUIZ TOLD VIEWERS THAT HE REFUSED TO SIGN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT RETIRING FROM THE AIR FORCE BECAUSE "IT WAS NOT NECESSARY" AND WOULD HAVE APPEARED AS IF HE WAS OFFERING HIS RESIGNATION RATHER THAN RESPONDING TO A PRESIDENTIAL DEMAND. RUIZ ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT CONFERRED WITH PRATS, MONTERO OR AIR FORCE GENERALS ON FRIDAY NOR HAD HE SPOKEN WITH GENERALS LEIGH OR MAGLIOCCHETTI PRIOR TO THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF CINC AND MINISTER POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT HE AND LEIGH HAD AGREED ON SAT TO HAVE NEW CINC TAKE OVER AT NOON ON MONDAY. MIDMONDAY MORNING RADIO REPORTS STATE THAT FACH HAS TAKEN TO BARRACKS "ACUARTELADO" IN SUPPORT OF RUIZ.

- 3. PANELISTS IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP RUIZ' STATEMENTS NOTING OBVIOUS FACT THAT LEIGH HAD NOT BEEN NAMED TO MINISTER POSITION TO PROVE THAT RUIZ HAD BEEN "TRICKED" (UN ENGANO) INTO RESIGNING THE
- CINC JOB. SEVERAL PANELISTS (GUZMAN, CELEDON) STATED THAT LEGALLY SPEAKING HIS RESIGNATION AS MINISTER SHOULD HAVE HAD NO RELATIONSHIP UPON HIS POSITION AS CINC AND AS HE HAD NOT SIGNED A FORMAL AIR FORCE RETIREMENT DECLARATION HE HAD, AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED, NOT REALLY RESIGNED FROM THE CINC JOB. RUIZ GUARDED HIS SILENCE WHILE THE PANELISTS DISCUSSED THESE POINTS
- 4. AMBASSADOR TOLD OVER WEEKEND BY SOURCE WELL-PLUGGED INTOMILITARY SERVICES THAT RUIZ HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PROMISED BY PRATS AND ONTERO THAT THEY WOULD ALSO RESIGN MINISTRY POSITIONS, AND THAT THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO HAS LEFT HIM EXTREMELY BITTER. SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE PREPARED TO MOVE CONFIDENTIAL.

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AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT EARLY SATURDAY MORNING BUT THAT BEN. LEIGH'S ACCEPTANCE OF CINC JOB UNSTUCK ALL PLANS.

5. IN SATURDAY AFTERNOON CEREMONY SWEARING IN MAGLIOCCHETTI AS NEW MINISTER PRES LARGELY REPEATED STATEMENTS MADE AT AUG 9 CEREMONY IN WHICH CINCS ENTERED GOVT TO EFFECT THAT NEW CABINET WAS ON OF NATIONAL SECURITY WITH NATION'S LAST CHANCE "TO AVOID CONFRONTAATION". PRES ALSO STATED THAT

HE HAD ACCEPTED JAIME FAIVOVICH'S RESIGNATION AS TRANSPORT UNDER SEC ON THURSDAY ONCE HIS RESIGNATION HAD CEASED TO BE A DEMAND OF THE STRIKING TRUCKERS. IN HIS SUNDAY NIGHT COMMENTS RUIZ STATED THAT HE HAD HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH FAIVOVICH AND THAT THE LATTER REALLY DID NOT HAVE ANY IMPORTANCE ONCE THE MILITARY TRANSPORT INTERVENTORS HAD BEEN NAMED.

- 6. GEN HERMAN BRADY, NAMED SAT AS INTERVENETOR FOR ALL STRIKING TRANSPORT GUILDS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD MEET MORNING AUG 20 WITH STRIKE LEADERS.
- 7. MERCHANTS IN SIX CENTRAL PROVINCES (FROM O'HIGGINS TO MAULE) HAVE DECLARED A MONDAY SHUTDOWN IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING TRANSPORT WORKERS. THEIR DECLARATIONCALLED FOR A NATIONAL COMMERCIAL SHUTDOWN. SMALL BUSINESS LEADER CUMSILLE ANNOUNCED OVER RADIO SUNDAY THAT NATIONAL SHUTDOWN A STRONG POSSIBILITY AND ASKED MERCHANTS TO BE ON ALERT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH HE PROMISED WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITH 24 HOURS. DOCTORS VOTETUESDAY ON WHETHER TO EMBARK ON NATIONAL STRIKE. MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN SANTIAGO AND SEVERAL OTHER PROVINCES HAVE ALREADY DECLARED 48 HOURS STRIKES BEGINING MONDAY MORNING.
- 8. OPPOSITION-LED CUT FACTION LED BY SANTIAGO PROVINCE HAS CALLED FOR NATIONAL STRIKE OF OPPOSITION UNIONS FOR TUESDAY IN RESPONSE TO GOVT SUPPRESSION OF GUILDS, MARXISTS PENETRATION OF ARMED FORCES AND GOVT CREATION OF PARALLED LABOR UNIONS.
- 9. GOVT CLAIMS THAT SINCE TRANSPORT STRIKE BEGAN THERE HAVE BEEN 360 INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE LEAVING 6 DEAD AND 35 WOUNDED. NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED OVER WEEKEND. OSCAR BALBOA, SECRETEATRY GENERAL OF MOPARE (GOVT CREATED TRUCK OWNERS UNION) IN SANTIAGO CONFIDENTIAL

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OUTSKIRT OF LA GRANJA WAS SHOT TO DEATH. UP PRESS ALLEGING PROBABLY WITHOUT SOME ACCURACY, THAT BALBOA MURDERED BY SUPPORTERS OF VILARIN'S TRUCK OWNER GROUP. BOMB BLEW UP A CAR IN FRONT OF HOME OF PS SAN BERNARDO MAYOR TITO PALESTRO. IN QUILLOTA, NEAR VALPARASIO, 60 ARMY TROOPS HELPED CARABINEROS BREAK MIR STREET BARRICADES.

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